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REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 17, 22, 27, 32, 33, 38, 43 and 48 have been amended and claims 2, 18 and 34 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 are pending and under consideration.

I. Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 13-16, 29-32 and 45-48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that, while being enabling for a first and second flange, the specification lacks description for a third flange.

The Examiners attention is directed to FIGS. 8A and 8B and the associated description at paragraphs 52 and 53 of the specification. The first member, i.e., the female member 114 in FIG. 8A includes an annular flange 148 (first flange), while the second member, i.e., the male member 116 in FIG. 8B includes both an outer annular flange 148 (second flange) and an inner flange 151 (third flange). Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that the specification does include description for a third flange. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 17-19 and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671 to Lim ("Lim"). Applicants respectfully assert that the claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Lim and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a connector assembly that includes a connector clip that includes two arms extending from a top portion to a respective end, such that the sides of the two ends are adjacent to and engaged against each other when the clip is in a first, or relaxed state (FIGS. 3A and 3B, for example) prior to being positioned within a housing, and the two ends are

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engaged against each other when the clip is in a second, or partially deflected state (FIGS. 3C, 3D, 4, 8A and 8B, for example) once positioned within the housing. The ends are then extended outward from each other when the clip is in a fully deflected position (FIG. 7, for example) with the lead inserted therein.

Lim teaches "a generally closed shape member defined by opposed free ends 31 and 33, which in the relaxed condition, define a gap . . . 29" (see column 4, lines 27-33 of Lim). The member is axially locked within the housing and includes inwardly extending projections 25a-25d that radially yieldably interfere with the path followed by an inserted lead.

Lim does not teach a deflectable connector clip that includes a first arm extending from a top portion to a first end and a second arm extending from the top portion to a second end, and a first side wall along the first end and a second side wall along the second end, the first side wall being adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall when the connector clip is in a first position and the first end being engaged against the second end when the connector clip is in a second position, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 17 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 3 and 5-11 dependent thereon and independent claim 17 and claims 19 and 21-27 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

Claims 4, 12-16, 20 and 28-48 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

As described above, Lim does not teach or suggest a deflectable connector clip that includes a first arm extending from a top portion to a first end and a second arm extending from the top portion to a second end, and a first side wall along the first end and a second side wall along the second end, the first side wall being adjacent to and engaged against the second side wall when the connector clip is in a first position and the first end being engaged against the

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second end when the connector clip is in a second position, as set forth in independent claims 1, 17 and 33 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 4 and 12-16 dependent thereon, independent claim 17 and claims 20 and 28-32 dependent thereon, and independent claim 33 and claims 34-48 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Lim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Lahti, Jay et al.

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Date



Michael C. Soldner
Reg. No. 41,455
(763) 514-4842
Customer No. 27581